

## Departmental Short-Term and Long-Term Strategic Issues

Department: VA Cooperative Extension

Date: FY2007

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**Short-Term Issues:** List critical issues facing the department now and through the next couple fiscal years.

- Administer and maintain home horticulture programs impacted by loss of an Environmental Horticulture Extension Agent.
- Increased incidence of overweight and obesity in adults and children/youth living in Roanoke County, a trend that increases risk for chronic diseases and other health problems.
- Increased incidence of, and deaths from, chronic diseases (e.g. heart diseases, cancers and diabetes) and higher rate of diseases in Roanoke County as compared to rate in Virginia.
- Rising costs of employee healthcare coverage will impact Extension staff budgeted salary.

**Long-Term Issues:** List major issues or trends that may confront the department beyond the next couple fiscal years.

- Continued concern for state and federal budget reductions.
- Focus on small farm profitability with emphasis on intensive farming on reduced acreage, competition and rural development, and farm family safety.
- Focus on character education with youth and citizens who influence youth, with an increased need for character education programming.
- Increased rate of death and disability, as result of overweight/obesity-induced chronic illness among adults and youth in Roanoke County, leading to decreased productivity and quality of life for those citizens and an increased demand for county resources.
- Concern for office relocation; whereas, the public and general Extension clientele need access to a centrally located office with respect to the areas we serve.